

# Zion's Herald and Wesleyan Journal.

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LETTERS OF WESLEY.  
Chiefly from the Papers of Adam Clarke.

Wesley was a man of an extraordinary man. Among his many other excellencies, he was an unexampled economist of time. With him no moments. Brought unemployed or unimproved, he preached fifteen sermons and traveled one hundred miles, chiefly on horseback, every week, for above fifty years. The books he read were innumerable, and his writings very voluminous. Any one of these labors would suffice to have kept an ordinary individual busy through life. His correspondence was very extensive. About nine hundred of his letters have been collected and published in a volume of the original and uniform edition of his works, sold by Gee & Hitchcock, and Carlton & Porter. A few others, from the same ready pen, have fortunately come into our possession. These, we doubt not, will be valued by the numerous readers of *The Herald*. They are distinguished by the same discriminating judgment, refined taste, general knowledge, devout but cheerful spirit, attention to the wants of his fellow-men, and a spirit of paternal concern for the lambs of the flock, as were displayed in all the other writings and labors of this master in our flesh.

A man who could have foiled at any time, a dozen would-be's of the present day;

A veteran soldier in the Christian field;

Who never saw the sword could not wield.

TO JOHN TAYLOR.

"Dec. 24, 1794.—Sir.—I speak without reserve. I believe John Fallon to be a better assistant than either you or I. I believe he has more of the spirit of God resting upon him, and is more devoted to God, than almost any man or woman I know. And I do not myself a jot better than he because I was born forty years before him."

"Your affectionate friend and brother."

Taylor entered the ministry 1761, and died 1816; a sterling character, sound divine, laborious preacher, and vice president of the Conference. John Paton labored from 1775 to 1794, educated a Romanist, brought to God and Methodist through the instrumentality of Wesley, deeply and extensively used.

TO JOHN WHITE.

White, a man in Yorkshire, had disagreed with his members, and complained of their refractoriness to Wesley, who sent him the following letter:

"John White, whoever is wrong, are you not right. I am yours, JOHN WESLEY."

TO SIR LUDOVIC GRANT.

"Elgin, Jan. 15, 1784. Dear Sir.—Considering the critical situation of your health, I cannot but drop you a line before I go southward. Your case is dangerous, but not desperate, provided you have resolution to follow a few rules. You will give me leave to set them down, without any preface, as the result of long experience. 1. Withdrawal from society. 2. A quiet, temperate exercise is better for you than a course of medicines.

"3. No excesses, by ~~an~~ <sup>an</sup> impetuosity whatever, eat or drink more than your stomach calls for. You are in no danger, at all, of taking too much. You will be well if you took flesh at all. You would be worse if you took nothing but tea and milk, with as much bread as you liked. It is not what you swallow that strengthens you, but only what you digest. If you value yourself, eat and drink nothing but what your stomach stands to. I fear nothing but that you should *form* nature. 3. I believe you watch against fretting, against grieving, and against anger. These would be your best and only friends. In a quiet, temperate, quiet soul, it is true you have very great temptations, but the grace of God is sufficient for you. O, sir, for what end does the God of all grace send you so many afflictions, and in particular, this lingering illness? Is it not for this end to make you, not almost, but altogether a Christian? To wean you from the world and worldly company; to fit you for things above. You are a sinner. You are a sinner, and he is at hand, just ready to visit you with his judgment. May He do it to you! Pray, dear sir,

"Your very affectionate servant,

JOHN WESLEY."

Grant's residence was an old castle, Orange Green, near Tees, Scotland, where Wesley had been hospitably entertained.

TO DUNCAN M'ALLUM.

"New London, Oct. 24, 1772. Dear Duncan—  
I believe, I am not surprised, I think it will be a comfortable place for Peter Mills, and I trust he will be more useful there. Yet I was afraid he would be straitened for money, so I have drawn a little note on Mr. Rickard in his favor, who keeps the money of the Contingent Fund in Dr. Otis's absence. If he wants anything, I will send him a note."

"I am yours, Duncan, yours affectionately."

I loved the excellent Duncan McAllum. His spirit was devout, conversation instructive, understanding sound, memory retentive; had a knowledge of Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Syriac, and of several branches of science, was well informed in civil and ecclesiastical history, and was mighty in the Scriptures. He would preach on the same Sabbath, twice in Galilee, and twice in English. His sermons were very methodical, and often highly metaphysical. He died in peace July 21, 1854, aged 79. Peter Mills began to preach 1774, died 1802.

TO JOSEPH THOMPSON.

"Bristol, Sept. 23, 1770. Dear Joseph:—You are in the right; the proper time for making the division is in the quarter day. I can confide in your prudence, as well as in your impartiality, in great emergencies. You are a man of great diligence in the business, and exact in every point of discipline." I am, dear Joseph,

"Your affectionate friend and brother,

JOHN WESLEY."

This veteran entered the literary ranks, 1759, died, 1808. A man of sterling integrity, and a powerful preacher. His last words were, "I am nothing, but Christ is all in him, and from him, to whom be glory forever."

TO JOHN TAYLOR.

"London, Jan. 12, 1787.—My Dear Nancy:—I don't at all blame your poor selfishness; yet I command you for overruling it. From the first time I talked with you, I felt a great concern for you; and though you have such parents to assist you as few young persons have, yet considering the dangers to which youth is exposed, you may possibly want still more help. And if you can speak freely to me, then, not otherwise, I may be helpful to you. This you will need, particularly if you are in any trouble, but harken!

"Seconded from the world, and others' care,"

"Haste thou to joy or grieve, to hope or fear,"

"Yet still you must watch and pray or you will enter into temptation. Did you ever enjoy a sense

of the love of God? Did you ever know him as a God of pardoning love? If you did, in what manner did you first receive that knowledge? You may write as simply and as artlessly to me as you please, for I am no critic; and besides I love you too well to criticize upon anything that you say. Therefore you may write without any reserve, to dear Nancy, Yours affectionately."

Nancy was the only daughter of Thomas Taylor, one of Wesley's early converts, who was a member of the South Carolina Conference. She was the daughter of Roderick Miller, and their accomplished daughter was for many years at the head of a respectable Seminary in Darlington, England.

TO MISS TAYLOR.

"London, June, 1787. Dear Nancy:—I felt a particular concern for you ever since you were a little one, and more particularly from that time when I had some conversation with you in York. I observed even then that you had a real desire to love and serve God; and I am in hope that desire will never die, but rather grow stronger and stronger. Your great temptation will be, devout while you are, better to seek happiness in some other way. It is well for you to think, if happy, if you do not already begin to think, O how happy I should be if I were to spend my life with this or that person! What thought? Happiness is not in man, nor in any creature under heaven:

"Search the whole creation round,  
Can it out of God be found?"

"No; when you begin to know God as your God, then you begin to be happy; but to be happy much more when you have more of him, and increase in loving faith, your happiness will increase in the same proportion. Steadily steady to this point, keep your heart from idols. To converse freely with one or two sensible friends, who are deeply devoted to God, will be an unspeakable help in your way. And private prayer you must never omit. Next to the Bible, the books you might profit by would be Mr. Law's works, and some of those. I am sending you a copy of *Christianity and Anti-Slavery*, a malarious mass of corruption to be consumed by the brightness of his coming?"

"The success of an adulterated gospel is fallacious. The impurities which it has taken to itself contain the seeds of its ultimate decline and downfall. Christian truth, pure as it gushed from its fountain, Jesus Christ—is always aggressive and always victorious.

"The signs of the times indicate a rapid unification of Methodism in our country. The Wesleyan Society is a clear and distinct organization, and the signs of its maturity are visible in every church. In 1830 it had \$150 in the society. It has since paid in, in different times, \$173. It has withdrawn \$79, and still has \$10 in the society. \$31; showing a profit of \$207."

"B has a large family. In March, 1850, he had \$50, and has since paid in \$24. During the last half a year he has withdrawn \$20, and has still left in the society \$37. His profit has been \$185."

"C another working man, with a large family, who all travel in the society, had \$25 in the society in 1830. He has since paid in \$10; yet he has withdrawn \$58, and still has \$10 in the society. This man it will be seen made a gain of over \$600 in ten years."

"D is another remarkable case. In 1854 he had just \$30 in the society, and paid in since \$35; yet he has withdrawn \$45, and has still left to his credit \$10; showing a clear profit of \$55 in six and a half years."

"The results were due rather to parsimony than to greed, and the members who have been converted from other churches are often more zealous than those who have been converted from the Wesleyans. But the secret of their success is that they have been converted from the Wesleyans."

"E is a working man, with a wife and two children. In 1830 he had \$150 in the society. He has since paid in, in different times, \$163. He has withdrawn \$79, and still has \$10 in the society. \$31; showing a profit of \$207."

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